

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-07  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /100 W  
-----032211Z 111105 /14

R 031430Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3811  
INFO AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2778

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ET, FR, FT, PFOR, PORG, USMISSION USUN NY  
SUBJ: UN MISSION, TAITTINGER ARRIVE IN ADDIS

1. MEDIA REPORTS THREE MEMBER UN OBSERVER MISSION TO  
DJIBOUTI COMPOSED OF AMB I.B. FONSECA OF SRI  
LANKA, MRS. MARIA CLEMENCIA LOPEZ OF VENEZUELA, AND TOM  
RIC VRAALSEM OF NORWAY MET WITH FONMIN PERMSEC DAWIT  
WOLDE-GIORGIS AND AFRICAN DIVISION HEAD BERHANU DINKA  
MAY 2. DAWIT REITERATED EPMG POSITION OF NO TERRITORIAL  
CLAIMS ON DJIBOUTI AND THAT EPMG WOULD TAKE NECESSARY  
MEASURES TO PROTECT HER INTERESTS AND THOSE OF PEOPLE OF  
DJIBOUTI IF OTHERS INTERFERED IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF  
TERRITORY ON ITS ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE. DAWIT NOTED  
THAT GSDR CONSIDERS DJIBOUTI AS "PART OF HER TERRITORY  
UNDER COLONIAL RULE", AND THAT GSDR SENDING NUMEROUS  
INFILTRATORS INTO DJIBOUTI. HE ALSO STATED GOF HAD  
FAILED TO LIVE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND HAD  
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GIVEN UNSATISFACTORY EXCUSES WHEN EPMG EXPRESSED  
CONCERN OVER LOOPHOLES CREATED BY GOF WHICH WOULD  
ALLOW GSDR TO INTERVENE IN AFFAIRS OF DJIBOUTI.

2. MEDIA ALSO COVERED BRIEFLY VISIT BY FRENCH  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PIERRE  
TAITTINGER WHO MET WITH FONMIN FELEKE FEDLE-GIORGIS

MAY 2. FRENCH EMB HERE HAS INFORMED US THAT TAITTINGER CAME TO ADDIS THIS TIME AT EPMG REQUEST. ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING WERE EPMG MINDEF AYALEW MANDEFRO, MINTRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS YUSUF AHMED, AND AFRICAN DIVISION CHIEF BERHANU DINKA. MISSION LEFT MORNING MAY 3. PRELIMINARY COMMENT BY FRENCH AMB WAS TO EFFECT THAT IT ACCOMPLISHED LITTLE, ETHIOPIANS WERE NOT WELL-INFORMED, AND RESULT WAS DIALOGUE OF DEAF.

3. EPMG RADIO MAY 2 CARRIED MATTER-OF-FACT COVERAGE OF FORTHCOMING REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS IN DJIBOUTI. BROADCAST DISCUSSED LPAI, ELECTORAL SLATE, AND LPAI PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED WITHOUT INTERJECTING USUAL PEJORATIVE OBJECTIVES.

4. DURING VISIT TO DJIBOUTI, APRIL 24-27, TO ASSIST NEW CONGEN, EMBOFF NOTED THAT FRENCH FORCES AUGMENTED IN DJIBOUTI. SOPHISTICATED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, PRESUMABLY SUPER MIRAGES, OBSERVED AT AIRPORT AND OVERFLYING DJIBOUTI. DURING PRIOR VISITS ONLY F-100'S OBSERVED. AIRCRAFT CARRIER CLEMENCEAU HAS CALLED IN DJIBOUTI AND IS REPORTEDLY OPERATING IN NEARBY WATERS. IN ADDITION, LOCAL SOURCE INDICATED THAT FRENCH MARINE GARRISON HAS BEEN REINFORCED. FRENCH NO DOUBT OPERATING UNDER ASSUMPTION THAT INCREASED MILITARY PRESENCE WILL ACT AS DETERRENT TO POLITICALLY INSPIRED VIOLENCE.

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5. COMMENT: FROM ADDIS VANTAGE POINT, POLITICAL SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI HAS TAKEN DEFINITE TURN FOR BETTER. ALI AREF'S PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR RASSEMBLEMENT NATIONAL POUR L'INDEPENDENCE (RNI) SLATE (REFTEL), INDICATES THAT ALL MAJOR TFAI LEADERS NOW SUPPORTING RNI SLATE. FURTHERMORE, GIVEN FACT THAT ALI AREF HAD ALWAYS BEEN ETHIOPIA'S MAN IN INTERNAL TFAI POLITICAL POWER STRUGGLE, HIS ACTION MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR EPMG TO COMPLAIN TOO LOUDLY OVER ABSENCE OF PRO-ETHIOPIAN FACTION'S CANDIDATES FROM UNIFIED ELECTORAL SLATE. EPMG PRESENTLY DEVOTING ITS ATTENTION TO ITS OWN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN NORTH, AND ITS MILD STATEMENTS ON LPAI AND FRENCH APPEAR INDICATE EPMG UNLIKELY TO TAKE HOSTILE MOVES TOWARDS TFAI IN NEAR FUTURE. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, POSSIBILITY OF OPEN ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI HOSTILITIES OVER DJIBOUTI BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE APPEARS TO HAVE DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY WITH FORMATION OF UNITED AFAR-ISSA SLATE.

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## Message Attributes

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